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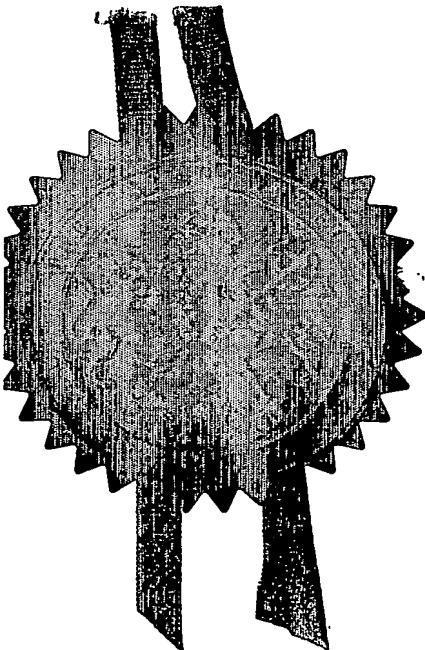
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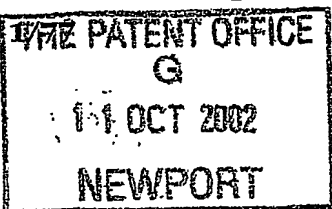
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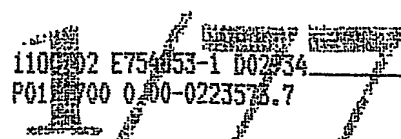
Signed *Andrew Jones*

Dated 21 October 2003

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# Request for grant of a patent

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The Patent Office

Cardiff Road  
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Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference 100863

2. Patent application number  
(The Patent Office will fill in this part) 0223573.7

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)  
AstraZeneca AB  
S-151 85 Sodertalje  
Sweden

Patents ADP number (if you know it) 7822448003

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation Sweden

4. Title of the invention  
CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

5. Name of your agent (if you have one) Lucy Clare Padget  
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)  
AstraZeneca UK Limited  
Global Intellectual Property  
Mereside, Alderley Park  
Macclesfield  
Cheshire SK10 4TG

Patents ADP number (if you know it) 8340762001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application	Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:  
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or  
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or  
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.  
See note (d))

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**Patents Form 1/77**

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description 28

Claim(s) 2

Abstract

Drawing(s)

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents  
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11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature



Date

Authorised Signatory

10/10/2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Jennifer C Bennett - 01625 230148

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CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

This invention relates to chemical compounds, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. These compounds possess human 11- $\beta$ -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 1 enzyme (11 $\beta$ HSD1) inhibitory activity and accordingly have value in the treatment of disease states including metabolic syndrome and are useful in methods of treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man. The invention also relates to processes for the manufacture of said compounds, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and to their use in the manufacture of medicaments to inhibit 11 $\beta$ HSD1 in a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

Glucocorticoids (cortisol in man, corticosterone in rodents) are counter regulatory hormones i.e. they oppose the actions of insulin (Dallman MF, Strack AM, Akana SF et al. 1993; Front Neuroendocrinol 14, 303-347). They regulate the expression of hepatic enzymes involved in gluconeogenesis and increase substrate supply by releasing glycerol from adipose tissue (increased lipolysis) and amino acids from muscle (decreased protein synthesis and increased protein degradation). Glucocorticoids are also important in the differentiation of pre-adipocytes into mature adipocytes which are able to store triglycerides (Bujalska IJ et al. 1999; Endocrinology 140, 3188-3196). This may be critical in disease states where glucocorticoids induced by "stress" are associated with central obesity which itself is a strong risk factor for type 2 diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease (Bjorntorp P & Rosmond R 2000; Int. J. Obesity 24, S80-S85)

It is now well established that glucocorticoid activity is controlled not simply by secretion of cortisol but also at the tissue level by intracellular interconversion of active cortisol and inactive cortisone by the 11-beta hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases, 11 $\beta$ HSD1 (which activates cortisone) and 11 $\beta$ HSD2 (which inactivates cortisol) (Sandeep TC & Walker BR 2001 Trends in Endocrinol & Metab. 12, 446-453). That this mechanism may be important in man was initially shown using carbenoxolone (an anti-ulcer drug which inhibits both 11 $\beta$ HSD1 and 2) treatment which (Walker BR et al. 1995; J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. 80, 3155-3159) leads to increased insulin sensitivity indicating that 11 $\beta$ HSD1 may well be regulating the effects of insulin by decreasing tissue levels of active glucocorticoids (Walker BR et al. 1995; J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. 80, 3155-3159).

Clinically, Cushing's syndrome is associated with cortisol excess which in turn is associated with glucose intolerance, central obesity (caused by stimulation of pre-adipocyte differentiation in this depot), dyslipidaemia and hypertension. Cushing's syndrome shows a

number of clear parallels with metabolic syndrome. Even though the metabolic syndrome is not generally associated with excess circulating cortisol levels (Jessop DS et al. 2001; J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. 86, 4109-4114) abnormally high 11 $\beta$ HSD1 activity within tissues would be expected to have the same effect. In obese men it was shown that despite having similar or  
5 lower plasma cortisol levels than lean controls, 11 $\beta$ HSD1 activity in subcutaneous fat was greatly enhanced (Rask E et al. 2001; J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. 1418-1421). Furthermore, the central fat, associated with the metabolic syndrome expresses much higher levels of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 activity than subcutaneous fat (Bujalska IJ et al. 1997; Lancet 349, 1210-1213). Thus there appears to be a link between glucocorticoids, 11 $\beta$ HSD1 and the metabolic  
10 syndrome.

11 $\beta$ HSD1 knock-out mice show attenuated glucocorticoid-induced activation of gluconeogenic enzymes in response to fasting and lower plasma glucose levels in response to stress or obesity (Kotelevtsev Y et al. 1997; Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA 94, 14924-14929) indicating the utility of inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 in lowering of plasma glucose and hepatic  
15 glucose output in type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, these mice express an anti-atherogenic lipoprotein profile, having low triglycerides, increased HDL cholesterol and increased apo-lipoprotein AI levels. (Morton NM et al. 2001; J. Biol. Chem. 276, 41293-41300). This phenotype is due to an increased hepatic expression of enzymes of fat catabolism and PPAR $\alpha$ . Again this indicates the utility of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibition in treatment of the  
20 dyslipidaemia of the metabolic syndrome.

The most convincing demonstration of a link between the metabolic syndrome and 11 $\beta$ HSD1 comes from recent studies of transgenic mice over-expressing 11 $\beta$ HSD1 (Masuzaki H et al. 2001; Science 294, 2166-2170). When expressed under the control of an adipose specific promoter, 11 $\beta$ HSD1 transgenic mice have high adipose levels of  
25 corticosterone, central obesity, insulin resistant diabetes, hyperlipidaemia and hyperphagia. Most importantly, the increased levels of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 activity in the fat of these mice are similar to those seen in obese subjects. Hepatic 11 $\beta$ HSD1 activity and plasma corticosterone levels were normal, however, hepatic portal vein levels of corticosterone were increased 3 fold and it is thought that this is the cause of the metabolic effects in liver.

30 Overall it is now clear that the complete metabolic syndrome can be mimicked in mice simply by overexpressing 11 $\beta$ HSD1 in fat alone at levels similar to those in obese man.

11 $\beta$ HSD1 tissue distribution is widespread and overlapping with that of the glucocorticoid receptor. Thus, 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibition could potentially oppose the effects of glucocorticoids in a number of physiological/pathological roles. 11 $\beta$ HSD1 is present in human skeletal muscle and glucocorticoid opposition to the anabolic effects of insulin on protein turnover and glucose metabolism are well documented (Whorwood CB et al. 2001; J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. 86, 2296-2308). Skeletal muscle must therefore be an important target for 11 $\beta$ HSD1 based therapy.

Glucocorticoids also decrease insulin secretion and this could exacerbate the effects of glucocorticoid induced insulin resistance. Pancreatic islets express 11 $\beta$ HSD1 and carbenoxolone can inhibit the effects of 11-dehydrocorticosterone on insulin release (Davani B et al. 2000; J. Biol. Chem. 275, 34841-34844). Thus in treatment of diabetes 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitors may not only act at the tissue level on insulin resistance but also increase insulin secretion itself.

Skeletal development and bone function is also regulated by glucocorticoid action. 11 $\beta$ HSD1 is present in human bone osteoclasts and osteoblasts and treatment of healthy volunteers with carbenoxolone showed a decrease in bone resorption markers with no change in bone formation markers (Cooper MS et al 2000; Bone 27, 375-381). Inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 activity in bone could be used as a protective mechanism in treatment of osteoporosis.

Glucocorticoids may also be involved in diseases of the eye such as glaucoma. 11 $\beta$ HSD1 has been shown to affect intraocular pressure in man and inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 may be expected to alleviate the increased intraocular pressure associated with glaucoma (Rauz S et al. 2001; Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science 42, 2037-2042).

There appears to be a convincing link between 11 $\beta$ HSD1 and the metabolic syndrome both in rodents and in humans. Evidence suggests that a drug which specifically inhibits 11 $\beta$ HSD1 in type 2 obese diabetic patients will lower blood glucose by reducing hepatic gluconeogenesis, reduce central obesity, improve the atherogenic lipoprotein phenotype, lower blood pressure and reduce insulin resistance. Insulin effects in muscle will be enhanced and insulin secretion from the beta cells of the islet may also be increased.

Currently there are two main recognised definitions of metabolic syndrome.  
1) The Adult Treatment Panel (ATP III 2001 JMA) definition of metabolic syndrome indicates that it is present if the patient has three or more of the following symptoms:

- Waist measuring at least 40 inches (102 cm) for men, 35 inches (88 cm) for women;

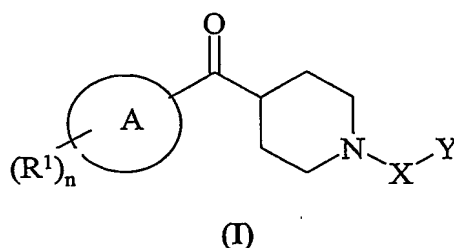
- Serum triglyceride levels of at least 150 mg/dl (1.69 mmol/l);
- HDL cholesterol levels of less than 40 mg/dl (1.04 mmol/l) in men, less than 50 mg/dl (1.29 mmol/l) in women;
- Blood pressure of at least 135/80 mm Hg; and / or
- 5 ➤ Blood sugar (serum glucose) of at least 110 mg/dl (6.1 mmol/l).

2) The WHO consultation has recommended the following definition which does not imply causal relationships and is suggested as a working definition to be improved upon in due course:

- The patient has at least one of the following conditions: glucose intolerance, impaired
- 10 glucose tolerance (IGT) or diabetes mellitus and/or insulin resistance; together with two or more of the following:
- Raised Arterial Pressure;
- Raised plasma triglycerides
- Central Obesity
- 15 ➤ Microalbuminuria

We have found that the compounds defined in the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, are effective 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitors, and accordingly have value in the treatment of disease states associated with metabolic syndrome.

Accordingly there is provided the use of a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

**Ring A** is selected from aryl or heteroaryl; wherein if said heteroaryl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>9</sup>;

- 25 **R<sup>1</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphonamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphonamoyl,
- 30 *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphonamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl,

carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; or two R<sup>1</sup> on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy group; wherein R<sup>1</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>3</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>4</sup>;

5        n is 0-3; wherein the values of R<sup>1</sup> may be the same or different;

X is -C(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

Y is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>5</sup>;

10        R<sup>2</sup> is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; wherein R<sup>2</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>6</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>7</sup>;

20        R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>8</sup>;

25        R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl;

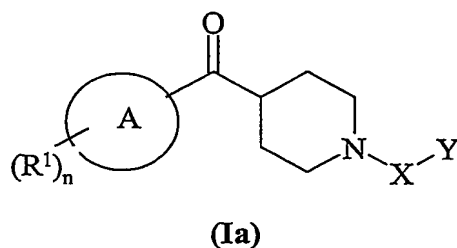
30        R<sup>8</sup> is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino,



acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1.

In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a compound of formula (Ia) wherein:



wherein:

**Ring A** is thienyl, furyl or thiazolyl;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; or two R<sup>1</sup> on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy group; wherein R<sup>1</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>3</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>4</sup>;

**n** is 0-3; wherein the values of R<sup>1</sup> may be the same or different;

**X** is -C(O)- or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-;

**Y** is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>5</sup>;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,

C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; wherein R<sup>2</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>6</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>7</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>8</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl;

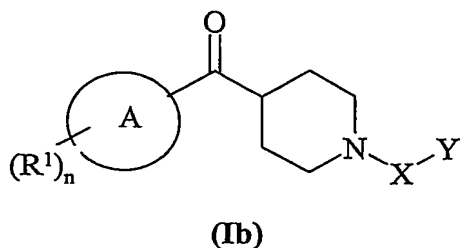
R<sup>8</sup> is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not 1-acetyl-4-[(4-methylthien-2-

yl)carbonyl]piperidine; 1-acetyl-4-[(4-methyl-5-bromothien-2-yl)carbonyl]piperidine; or 1-benzoyl-4-[(5-methylthien-2-yl)carbonyl]piperidine.

In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a compound of formula (Ib) wherein:



wherein:

**Ring A** is pyridinyl;

- 5        **R<sup>1</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, 10 *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; or two R<sup>1</sup> on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy group; wherein R<sup>1</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>3</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>4</sup>;

- 15        **n** is 0-3; wherein the values of R<sup>1</sup> may be the same or different;

**X** is -C(O)- or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-;

**Y** is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>5</sup>;

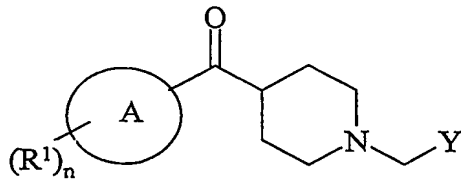
- 20        **R<sup>2</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, 25 *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; wherein R<sup>2</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>6</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>7</sup>;

$R^3$  and  $R^6$  are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyloxy,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ amino,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoylamino,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,   
 5  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylS(O) $_a$  wherein  $a$  is 0 to 2,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ sulphamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^6$  may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more  $R^8$ ;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^7$  are independently selected from  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,   
 10  $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulphonyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl;

$R^8$  is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxymethyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino,  $N$ -methyl- $N$ -ethylamino,   
 15 acetylamino,  $N$ -methylcarbamoyl,  $N$ -ethylcarbamoyl,  $N,N$ -dimethylcarbamoyl,  $N,N$ -diethylcarbamoyl,  $N$ -methyl- $N$ -ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,  $N$ -methylsulphamoyl,  $N$ -ethylsulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -dimethylsulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -diethylsulphamoyl or  $N$ -methyl- $N$ -ethylsulphamoyl;   
 20 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;   
 with the proviso that said compound is not 1-(piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)-4-(pyridin-2-ylcarbonyl)piperidine.

In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a compound of formula (Ic):



(Ic)

wherein:

Ring A is selected from thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl or pyridyl;

$R^1$  is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,   
 30  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyloxy,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ amino,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoylamino,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylS(O) $_a$

wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; or two R<sup>1</sup> on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy group; wherein R<sup>1</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>3</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH-

moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>4</sup>;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R<sup>1</sup> may be the same or different;

Y is phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl or thiazolyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>;

R<sup>2</sup> is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; wherein R<sup>2</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>6</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>7</sup>;

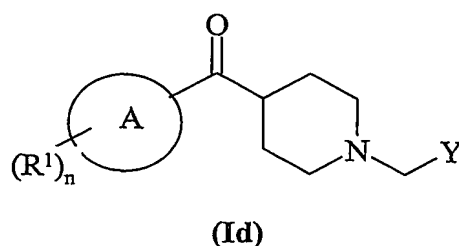
R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>8</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl;

R<sup>8</sup> is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino,

acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl  
 5 or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;  
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;  
 with the proviso that said compound is not 1-(2-hydroxypyrid-3-ylmethyl)-4-(thien-2-ylcarbonyl)piperidine; 1-(2-methoxypyrid-3-ylmethyl)-4-(thien-2-ylcarbonyl)piperidine or 1-benzyl-4-(thien-2-ylcarbonyl)piperidine.

10 In a further feature of the invention, there is provided a compound of formula (Id):



wherein:

**Ring A** is phenyl;

15 **R<sup>1</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl,  
 20 *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; or two R<sup>1</sup> on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy group; wherein R<sup>1</sup> may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>3</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>4</sup>;

25 **n** is 0-3; wherein the values of R<sup>1</sup> may be the same or different;

**Y** is thienyl, furyl or thiazolyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino,  
 30

*N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene-Y-; wherein R<sup>2</sup> may  
 5 be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R<sup>6</sup>; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>7</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> may be independently optionally substituted on carbon  
 15 by one or more R<sup>8</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl;

R<sup>8</sup> is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxymethyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,  
 20 *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not 1-(thien-2-ylmethyl)-4-(4-mesylaminobenzoyl)piperidine or 1-(5-methylfur-2-ylmethyl)-4-(4-mesylaminobenzoyl)piperidine.  
 30

In this specification the term "alkyl" includes both straight and branched chain alkyl groups but references to individual alkyl groups such as "propyl" are specific for the straight chain version only. For example, "C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl" and "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl" includes propyl, isopropyl and

*t*-butyl. However, references to individual alkyl groups such as 'propyl' are specific for the straight chained version only and references to individual branched chain alkyl groups such as 'isopropyl' are specific for the branched chain version only. A similar convention applies to other radicals therefore "carbocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl" would include 1-carbocyclylpropyl, 2-carbocycylethyl and 3-carbocyclylbutyl. The term "halo" refers to fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo.

Where optional substituents are chosen from "one or more" groups it is to be understood that this definition includes all substituents being chosen from one of the specified groups or the substituents being chosen from two or more of the specified groups.

"Heteroaryl" is a totally unsaturated, mono or bicyclic ring containing 3-12 atoms of which at least one atom is chosen from nitrogen, sulphur or oxygen, which may, unless otherwise specified, be carbon or nitrogen linked. Suitably "heteroaryl" refers to a totally unsaturated, monocyclic ring containing 5 or 6 atoms or a bicyclic ring containing 8 - 10 atoms of which at least one atom is chosen from nitrogen, sulphur or oxygen, which may, unless otherwise specified, be carbon or nitrogen linked. Examples and suitable values of the term "heteroaryl" are thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, pyranyl, indolyl, pyrimidyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl and quinolyl. Particularly "heteroaryl" refers to thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, benzothienyl, imidazolyl or pyrazolyl.

"Aryl" is a totally unsaturated, mono or bicyclic carbon ring that contains 3-12 atoms. Suitably "aryl" is a monocyclic ring containing 5 or 6 atoms or a bicyclic ring containing 9 or 10 atoms. Suitable values for "aryl" include phenyl or naphthyl. Particularly "aryl" is phenyl.

A "heterocyclyl" is a saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated, mono or bicyclic ring containing 3-12 atoms of which at least one atom is chosen from nitrogen, sulphur or oxygen, which may, unless otherwise specified, be carbon or nitrogen linked, wherein a -CH<sub>2</sub>- group can optionally be replaced by a -C(O)- or a ring sulphur atom may be optionally oxidised to form the S-oxides. Preferably a "heterocyclyl" is a saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated, mono or bicyclic ring containing 5 or 6 atoms of which at least one atom is chosen from nitrogen, sulphur or oxygen, which may, unless otherwise specified, be carbon or nitrogen linked, wherein a -CH<sub>2</sub>- group can optionally be replaced by a -C(O)- or a ring sulphur atom may be optionally oxidised to form S-oxide(s). Examples and suitable values of the term "heterocyclyl" are thienyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, thiomorpholinyl, coumarinyl, pyrimidinyl, phthalidyl, pyrazolyl,



pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, tetrahydrofuryl, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyrimidinyl, piperidinyl, indolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl and pyrrolidinyl.

A "carbocyclyl" is a saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated, mono or bicyclic carbon ring that contains 3-12 atoms; wherein a -CH<sub>2</sub>- group can optionally be replaced by a -C(O)-. Preferably "carbocyclyl" is a monocyclic ring containing 5 or 6 atoms or a bicyclic ring containing 9 or 10 atoms. Suitable values for "carbocyclyl" include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, 1-oxocyclopentyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, phenyl, naphthyl, tetralinyl, indanyl or 1-oxoindanyl. Particularly "carbocyclyl" is cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl or 2-6-dioxocyclohexyl.

An example of "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyloxy" is acetoxyl. Examples of "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl" include methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *n*- and *t*-butoxycarbonyl. Examples of "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy" include methoxy, ethoxy and propoxy. Examples of "oxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy" include oxymethoxy, oxyethoxy and oxypropoxy. Examples of "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoylamino" include formamido, acetamido and propionylamino. Examples of and "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2" include methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl and ethylsulphonyl. Examples of and "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonyl" include mesyl and ethylsulphonyl. Examples of "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanoyl" include propionyl and acetyl. Examples of "*N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino" include methylamino and ethylamino. Examples of "*N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino" include di-*N*-methylamino, di-(*N*-ethyl)amino and *N*-ethyl-*N*-methylamino. Examples of "C<sub>2-4</sub>alkenyl" are vinyl, allyl and 1-propenyl. Examples of "C<sub>2-4</sub>alkynyl" are ethynyl, 1-propynyl and 2-propynyl. Examples of "*N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)sulphamoyl" are *N*-(methyl)sulphamoyl and *N*-(ethyl)sulphamoyl. Examples of "*N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl" are *N,N*-(dimethyl)sulphamoyl and *N*-(methyl)-*N*-(ethyl)sulphamoyl. Examples of "*N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)carbamoyl" are methylaminocarbonyl and ethylaminocarbonyl. Examples of "*N,N*-(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl" are dimethylaminocarbonyl and methylethylaminocarbonyl. Examples of "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulphonylamino" are mesylamino and ethylsulphonylamino. Examples of "C<sub>0-4</sub>alkylene" are a direct bond, methylene and ethylene.

A suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of the invention is, for example, an acid-addition salt of a compound of the invention which is sufficiently basic, for example, an acid-addition salt with, for example, an inorganic or organic acid, for example hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric, phosphoric, trifluoroacetic, citric or maleic acid. In addition a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of the invention which is sufficiently acidic is an alkali metal salt, for example a sodium or potassium salt, an alkaline

earth metal salt, for example a calcium or magnesium salt, an ammonium salt or a salt with an organic base which affords a physiologically-acceptable cation, for example a salt with methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, piperidine, morpholine or tris-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

- 5           Some compounds of the formula (I) may have chiral centres and/or geometric isomeric centres (E- and Z- isomers), and it is to be understood that the invention encompasses all such optical, diastereoisomers and geometric isomers that possess 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory activity.

10           The invention relates to any and all tautomeric forms of the compounds of the formula (I) that possess 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory activity.

It is also to be understood that certain compounds of the formula (I) can exist in solvated as well as unsolvated forms such as, for example, hydrated forms. It is to be understood that the invention encompasses all such solvated forms which possess 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory activity.

- 15           Particular values of variable groups are as follows. Such values may be used where appropriate with any of the definitions, claims or embodiments defined hereinbefore or hereinafter.

Ring A is aryl.

- 20           Ring A is heteroaryl; wherein if said heteroaryl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>9</sup>.

Ring A is phenyl.

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from halo or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from fluoro, chloro or methyl.

n is 0-2; wherein the values of R<sup>1</sup> may be the same or different.

- 25           n is 0 or 1.

n is 1.

Ring A is phenyl, n is 1 and the substituent is para to the carbonyl of formula (I).

X is -C(O)-.

X is -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-.

- 30           X is -CH<sub>2</sub>-.

Y is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>.

Y is carbocyclyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>.

Y is heterocyclyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R<sup>5</sup>.

Y is phenyl, thienyl, methyl, furyl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>.

Y is phenyl, thien-2-yl, methyl, fur-2-yl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>.

Y is 4-methylphenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, thien-2-yl, methyl, fur-2-yl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>.

R<sup>2</sup> is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.

R<sup>2</sup> is a substituent on carbon and is selected from fluoro or methyl.

When Y is phenyl, R<sup>2</sup> is para to X.

According to a further feature of the invention there is provided the use of a compound of formula (I) wherein:

Ring A is phenyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from halo or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl;

n is 1;

X is -C(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

Y is phenyl, thienyl, methyl, furyl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl; wherein Y may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R<sup>2</sup>; and

R<sup>2</sup> is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

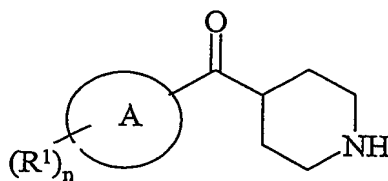
in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1.

In another aspect of the invention, suitable compounds of the invention are any one of the Examples or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another aspect of the invention, suitable compounds of the invention are any one of the Reference Examples or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

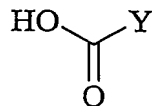
Another aspect of the present invention provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof which process (wherein variable groups are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in formula (I)) comprises of:

*Process 1)* for compounds of formula (I) wherein X is -C(O)-; reacting an amine of formula (II):



(II)

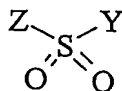
with an acid of formula (III):



(III)

or an activated derivative thereof;

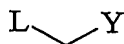
*Process 2)* for compounds of formula (I) wherein X is  $-S(O)_2-$ ; reacting an amine of formula (II) with a sulphonyl halide of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein Z is fluoro or chloro;

*Process 3)* for compounds of formula (I) wherein X is  $-CH_2-$ ; reacting an amine of formula (II) with a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein L is a displaceable group; or

*Process 4)* for compounds of formula (I) wherein X is  $-CH_2-$ ; reducing a compound of formula (I) wherein X is  $-C(O)-$ ;

and thereafter if necessary or desirable:

- i) converting a compound of the formula (I) into another compound of the formula (I);
- ii) removing any protecting groups;
- iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

L is a displaceable group, suitable values for L include halo, particularly chloro or bromo, or mesyloxy.

The reactions described above may be performed under standard conditions known to the person skilled in the art. The intermediates described above are commercially available, are known in the art or may be prepared by known procedures.

It will be appreciated that certain of the various ring substituents in the compounds of the present invention may be introduced by standard aromatic substitution reactions or generated by conventional functional group modifications either prior to or immediately following the processes mentioned above, and as such are included in the process aspect of the invention. Such reactions and modifications include, for example, introduction of a substituent by means of an aromatic substitution reaction, reduction of substituents, alkylation of substituents and oxidation of substituents. The reagents and reaction conditions for such procedures are well known in the chemical art. Particular examples of aromatic substitution reactions include the introduction of a nitro group using concentrated nitric acid, the introduction of an acyl group using, for example, an acyl halide and Lewis acid (such as aluminium trichloride) under Friedel Crafts conditions; the introduction of an alkyl group using an alkyl halide and Lewis acid (such as aluminium trichloride) under Friedel Crafts conditions; and the introduction of a halogeno group. Particular examples of modifications include the reduction of a nitro group to an amino group by for example, catalytic hydrogenation with a nickel catalyst or treatment with iron in the presence of hydrochloric acid with heating; oxidation of alkylthio to alkylsulphinyl or alkylsulphonyl.

It will also be appreciated that in some of the reactions mentioned herein it may be necessary/desirable to protect any sensitive groups in the compounds. The instances where protection is necessary or desirable and suitable methods for protection are known to those skilled in the art. Conventional protecting groups may be used in accordance with standard practice (for illustration see T.W. Green, Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, John Wiley and Sons, 1991). Thus, if reactants include groups such as amino, carboxy or hydroxy it may be desirable to protect the group in some of the reactions mentioned herein.

A suitable protecting group for an amino or alkylamino group is, for example, an acyl group, for example an alkanoyl group such as acetyl, an alkoxycarbonyl group, for example a methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or *t*-butoxycarbonyl group, an arylmethoxycarbonyl group, for example benzyloxycarbonyl, or an aroyl group, for example benzoyl. The deprotection conditions for the above protecting groups necessarily vary with the choice of protecting group. Thus, for example, an acyl group such as an alkanoyl or alkoxycarbonyl group or an aroyl group may be removed for example, by hydrolysis with a suitable base such as an alkali metal hydroxide, for example lithium or sodium hydroxide. Alternatively an acyl group such as a *t*-butoxycarbonyl group may be removed, for example, by treatment with a suitable acid as hydrochloric, sulphuric or phosphoric acid or trifluoroacetic acid and an

arylmethoxycarbonyl group such as a benzyloxycarbonyl group may be removed, for example, by hydrogenation over a catalyst such as palladium-on-carbon, or by treatment with a Lewis acid for example boron tris(trifluoroacetate). A suitable alternative protecting group for a primary amino group is, for example, a phthaloyl group which may be removed by  
5 treatment with an alkylamine, for example dimethylaminopropylamine, or with hydrazine.

A suitable protecting group for a hydroxy group is, for example, an acyl group, for example an alkanoyl group such as acetyl, an aroyl group, for example benzoyl, or an arylmethyl group, for example benzyl. The deprotection conditions for the above protecting groups will necessarily vary with the choice of protecting group. Thus, for example, an acyl  
10 group such as an alkanoyl or an aroyl group may be removed, for example, by hydrolysis with a suitable base such as an alkali metal hydroxide, for example lithium or sodium hydroxide. Alternatively an arylmethyl group such as a benzyl group may be removed, for example, by hydrogenation over a catalyst such as palladium-on-carbon.

A suitable protecting group for a carboxy group is, for example, an esterifying group,  
15 for example a methyl or an ethyl group which may be removed, for example, by hydrolysis with a base such as sodium hydroxide, or for example a *t*-butyl group which may be removed, for example, by treatment with an acid, for example an organic acid such as trifluoroacetic acid, or for example a benzyl group which may be removed, for example, by hydrogenation over a catalyst such as palladium-on-carbon.

20 The protecting groups may be removed at any convenient stage in the synthesis using conventional techniques well known in the chemical art.

As stated hereinbefore the compounds defined in the present invention possess 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory activity. These properties may be assessed using the following assay.

#### Assay

25 HeLa cells (human cervical carcinoma derived cells) were stably transfected with a construct containing four copies of the glucocorticoid response element (GRE) linked to a beta-galactosidase reporter gene (3 kb lac Z gene derived from pSV-B-galactosidase). These cells were then further stably transfected with a construct containing full-length human 11 $\beta$ HSD1 enzyme (in pCMVHyg) to create GRE4- $\beta$ Gal/11 $\beta$ HSD1 cells. The principal of the  
30 assay is as follows. Cortisone is freely taken up by the cells and is converted to cortisol by 11 $\beta$ HSD1 oxo-reductase activity and cortisol (but not cortisone) binds to and activates the glucocorticoid receptor. Activated glucocorticoid receptor then binds to the GRE and initiates transcription and translation of  $\beta$ -galactosidase. Enzyme activity can then be assayed with

high sensitivity by colourimetric assay. Inhibitors of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 will reduce the conversion of cortisone to cortisol and hence decrease the production of  $\beta$ -galactosidase.

Cells were routinely cultured in DMEM (Invitrogen, Paisley, Renfrewshire, UK) containing 10% foetal calf serum (LabTech), 1% glutamine (Invitrogen), 1% penicillin & streptomycin (Invitrogen), 0.5 mg/ml G418 (Invitrogen) & 0.5mg/ml hygromycin (Boehringer). Assay media was phenol red free-DMEM containing 1% glutamine, 1% penicillin & streptomycin.

Compounds (1mM) to be tested were dissolved in dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) and serially diluted into assay media containing 10% DMSO. Diluted compounds were then plated into transparent flat-bottomed 384 well plates (Matrix, Hudson NH, USA).

The assay was carried out in 384 well microtitre plate (Matrix) in a total volume of 50 $\mu$ l assay media consisting of cortisone (Sigma, Poole, Dorset, UK, 1 $\mu$ M), HeLa GRE4- $\beta$ Gal/11 $\beta$ HSD1 cells (10,000 cells) plus test compounds (3000 to 0.01 nM). The plates were then incubated in 5% O<sub>2</sub>, 95% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C overnight.

The following day plates were assayed by measurement of  $\beta$ -galactosidase production.

A cocktail (25 $\mu$ l) consisting of 10X Z-buffer (600 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 400 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O, 100 mM KCl, 10 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>.7H<sub>2</sub>O, 500 mM  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, pH 7.0), SDS (0.2%), chlorophenol red- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (5mM, Roche Diagnostics) was added per well and plates incubated at 37°C for 3-4hours.  $\beta$ -Galactosidase activity was indicated by a yellow to red colour change (absorbance at 570nm) measured using a Tecan Spectrafluor Ultra.

The calculation of median inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) values for the inhibitors was performed using Origin 6.0 (Microcal Software, Northampton MA USA). Dose response curves for each inhibitor were plotted as OD units at each inhibitor concentration with relation to a maximum signal (cortisone, no compound) and IC<sub>50</sub> values calculated. Compounds of the present invention typically show an IC<sub>50</sub> <10 $\mu$ M.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or of the Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined hereinbefore in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

The composition may be in a form suitable for oral administration, for example as a tablet or capsule, for parenteral injection (including intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular,

intravascular or infusion) as a sterile solution, suspension or emulsion, for topical administration as an ointment or cream or for rectal administration as a suppository.

In general the above compositions may be prepared in a conventional manner using conventional excipients.

5       The compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, will normally be administered to a warm-blooded animal at a unit dose within the range 0.1 – 50 mg/kg that normally provides a therapeutically-effective dose. A unit dose form such as a tablet or capsule will usually contain, for example 1-1000 mg of active ingredient. However the daily dose will necessarily be varied depending upon the host treated, the particular route  
10 of administration, and the severity of the illness being treated. Accordingly the optimum dosage may be determined by the practitioner who is treating any particular patient.

We have found that the compounds defined in the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, are effective 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitors, and accordingly have value in the treatment of disease states associated with metabolic syndrome.

15       It is to be understood that where the term “metabolic syndrome” is used herein, this relates to metabolic syndrome as defined in 1) and/or 2) or any other recognised definition of this syndrome. Synonyms for “metabolic syndrome” used in the art include Reaven’s Syndrome, Insulin Resistance Syndrome and Syndrome X. It is to be understood that where the term “metabolic syndrome” is used herein it also refers to Reaven’s Syndrome, Insulin  
20 Resistance Syndrome and Syndrome X.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or of the Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined hereinbefore for use in a method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

25       Thus according to this aspect of the invention there is provided a compound of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or of the Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined hereinbefore for use as a medicament.

30       According to another feature of the invention there is provided the use of a compound of the formula of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or of the Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined hereinbefore in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the production of an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man.



According to another feature of the invention there is provided the use of a compound selected from the Reference Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined hereinbefore in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the production of an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

5           Where production of or producing an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect is referred to suitably this refers to the treatment of metabolic syndrome. Alternatively, where production of an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect is referred to this refers to the treatment of diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycaemia, hyperinsulinemia or hypertension, particularly diabetes and obesity. Alternatively, where production of an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect is referred to this  
10          refers to the treatment of glaucoma, osteoporosis, tuberculosis, dementia, cognitive disorders or depression.

            According to a further feature of this aspect of the invention there is provided a method for producing an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount  
15          of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

            According to a further feature of this aspect of the invention there is provided a method for producing an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia), (Ib), (Ic) or (Id) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof  
20          or of the Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

            According to a further feature of this aspect of the invention there is provided a method for producing an 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound selected from the Reference Examples, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt  
25          thereof.

            In addition to their use in therapeutic medicine, the compounds of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, are also useful as pharmacological tools in the development and standardisation of *in vitro* and *in vivo* test systems for the evaluation of the effects of inhibitors of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 in laboratory animals such as cats, dogs, rabbits, monkeys,  
30          rats and mice, as part of the search for new therapeutic agents.

            The inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1 described herein may be applied as a sole therapy or may involve, in addition to the subject of the present invention, one or more other substances and/or treatments. Such conjoint treatment may be achieved by way of the simultaneous,

sequential or separate administration of the individual components of the treatment. Simultaneous treatment may be in a single tablet or in separate tablets. For example agents than might be co-administered with 11 $\beta$ HSD1 inhibitors, particularly those of the present invention, may include the following main categories of treatment:

- 5        1) Insulin and insulin analogues;
- 2) Insulin secretagogues including sulphonylureas (for example glibenclamide, glipizide) and prandial glucose regulators (for example repaglinide, nateglinide);
- 3) Insulin sensitising agents including PPAR $\gamma$  agonists (for example pioglitazone and rosiglitazone);
- 10       4) Agents that suppress hepatic glucose output (for example metformin);
- 5) Agents designed to reduce the absorption of glucose from the intestine (for example acarbose);
- 6) Agents designed to treat the complications of prolonged hyperglycaemia; e.g. aldose reductase inhibitors
- 15       7) Other anti-diabetic agents including phosphotyrosine phosphatase inhibitors, glucose 6 - phosphatase inhibitors, glucagon receptor antagonists, glucokinase activators, glycogen phosphorylase inhibitors, fructose 1,6 bisphosphatase inhibitors, glutamine:fructose -6-phosphate amidotransferase inhibitors
- 8) Anti-obesity agents (for example sibutramine and orlistat);
- 20       9) Anti- dyslipidaemia agents such as, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins, eg pravastatin); PPAR $\alpha$  agonists (fibrates, eg gemfibrozil); bile acid sequestrants (cholestyramine); cholesterol absorption inhibitors (plant stanols, synthetic inhibitors); ileal bile acid absorption inhibitors (IBATi), cholesterol ester transfer protein inhibitors and nicotinic acid and analogues (niacin and slow release formulations);
- 25       10) Antihypertensive agents such as,  $\beta$  blockers (eg atenolol, ideral); ACE inhibitors (eg lisinopril); calcium antagonists (eg. nifedipine); angiotensin receptor antagonists (eg candesartan),  $\alpha$  antagonists and diuretic agents (eg. furosemide, benzthiazide);
- 11) Haemostasis modulators such as, antithrombotics, activators of fibrinolysis and antiplatelet agents; thrombin antagonists; factor Xa inhibitors; factor VIIa inhibitors);
- 30       antiplatelet agents (eg. aspirin, clopidogrel); anticoagulants (heparin and Low molecular weight analogues, hirudin) and warfarin; and
- 12) Anti-inflammatory agents, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (eg. aspirin) and steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (eg. cortisone).

In the above other pharmaceutical composition, process, method, use and medicament manufacture features, the alternative and preferred embodiments of the compounds of the invention described herein also apply.

### Examples

- 5           The invention will now be illustrated in the following non limiting Examples, in which standard techniques known to the skilled chemist and techniques analogous to those described in these Examples may be used where appropriate, and in which, unless otherwise stated:
- (i) evaporations were carried out by rotary evaporation in vacuo and work up procedures were carried out after removal of residual solids such as drying agents by filtration;
- 10   (ii) all reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere at ambient temperature, typically in the range 18-25°C, with solvents of HPLC grade under anhydrous conditions, unless otherwise stated;
- (iii) column chromatography (by the flash procedure) was performed on Silica gel 40-63 µm (Merck);
- 15   (iv) yields are given for illustration only and are not necessarily the maximum attainable;
- (v) the structures of the end products of the formula (I) were generally confirmed by nuclear (generally proton) magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectral techniques; magnetic resonance chemical shift values were measured in deuterated CDCl<sub>3</sub> (unless otherwise stated) on the delta scale (ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane); proton data is quoted unless
- 20   otherwise stated; spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury-300 MHz, Varian Unity plus-400 MHz, Varian Unity plus-600 MHz or on Varian Inova-500 MHz spectrometer unless otherwise stated data was recorded at 400MHz; and peak multiplicities are shown as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; t, triplet; tt, triple triplet; q, quartet; tq, triple quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad; ABq, AB quartet; ABd, AB doublet, ABdd, AB doublet of doublets; dABq, doublet of AB quartets; LCMS were recorded on a Waters ZMD, LC column xTerra
- 25   MS C<sub>8</sub>(Waters), detection with a HP 1100 MS-detector diode array equipped; mass spectra (MS) (loop) were recorded on VG Platform II (Fisons Instruments) with a HP-1100 MS-detector diode array equipped; unless otherwise stated the mass ion quoted is (MH<sup>+</sup>); unless further details are specified in the text, analytical high performance liquid
- 30   chromatography (HPLC) was performed on Prep LC 2000 (Waters), Cromasil C<sub>8</sub>, 7 µm, (Akzo Nobel); MeCN and de-ionised water 10 mM ammonium acetate as mobile phases, with suitable composition;

(vii) intermediates were not generally fully characterised and purity was assessed by thin layer chromatography (TLC), HPLC, infra-red (IR), MS or NMR analysis;

(viii) where solutions were dried sodium sulphate was the drying agent;

(ix) where an "ISOLUTE" column is referred to, this means a column containing 2 g of silica, the silica being contained in a 6 ml disposable syringe and supported by a porous disc of 54Å pore size, obtained from International Sorbent Technology under the name "ISOLUTE";

"ISOLUTE" is a registered trade mark;

(x) the following abbreviations may be used hereinbefore or hereinafter:-

DCM                dichloromethane;

10 MeCN            acetonitrile; and

THF                tetrahydrofuran.

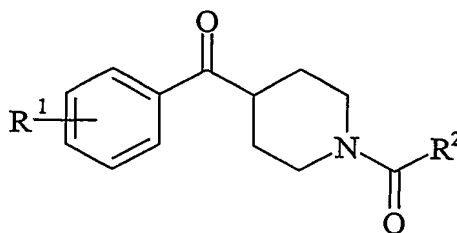
### **Example 1**

#### **1-(4-Fluorobenzoyl)-4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)piperidine**

15                To a stirred solution of (4-chlorophenyl)(4-piperidyl)methanone hydrochloride (187mg, 0.72mmol) and triethylamine (240µl, 1.71mmol) in DCM (3ml) was added 4-fluorobenzoyl chloride (109mg, 0.69mmol). The reaction was left to stir at room temperature for one hour then transferred to a sep funnel and diluted to approximately 10ml with DCM. This solution was washed with 2M HCl (5ml), water (5ml) and brine (5ml) then dried, filtered  
20 and evaporated to yield product as a solid (70mg, 29%). NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 100°C): 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 3.15 (t, 2H), 3.65 (m, 1H), 4.00 (m, 2H), 7.20 (t, 2H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d, 2H), 7.95 (d, 2H); m/z: 346.

### **Examples 2-11 and Reference Examples 1-2**

25                The procedure described in Example 1 was repeated using the appropriate reagent to replace the "4-fluorobenzoyl chloride" to obtain the compounds described below. In some cases a base wash was also carried out (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>) prior to washing with brine.



Ex	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	NMR	M/z
2	4-Cl	Cyclohexyl	1.25 (br m, 4H), 1.40-2.00 (br m, 10H), 2.50 (m, 1H), 2.80 (br t, 1H), 3.20 (br t, 1H), 3.45 (m, 1H), 4.00 (br m, 1H), 4.60 (br m, 1H), 7.45 (d, 2H), 7.90 (d, 2H)	334
3	4-Cl	4-Methyl-phenyl	0.85 (br m, 1H), 1.25 (s, 1H), 1.80 (m, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 3.10 (br m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 7.30 (d, 2H), 7.45 (d, 2H), 7.90 (d, 2H)	342
4	4-Cl	fur-2-yl	1.80-2.00 (br m, 4H), 3.20 (br m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 4.56 (d, 2H), 6.45 (m, 1H), 7.00 (d, 1H), 7.45 (d, 3H), 7.90 (d, 2H)	318
5	4-Cl	Cyclopropyl	0.85 (m, 2H), 1.00 (m, 2H), 1.65-2.00 (br m, 5H), 2.90 (br m, 1H), 3.30 (br m, 1H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 4.30 (br s, 1H), 4.55 (br s, 1H), 7.45 (d, 2H), 7.90 (d, 2H)	292
6	4-F	Furan	1.90 (br m, 4H), 3.20 (br m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 4.50 (d, 2H), 6.50 (m, 1H), 6.95 (d, 1H), 7.15 (t, 2H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 8.00 (m, 2H)	302
7	4-F	Cyclohexyl	1.30 (br m, 3H), 1.40-2.00 (br m, 11H+H <sub>2</sub> O), 2.50 (m, 1H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.45 (m, 1H), 4.00 (m, 1H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, 2H), 7.95 (m, 2H)	318
8	4-F	4-Fluoro-phenyl	1.85 (br s, 4H), 3.10 (br m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 7.10 (m, 4H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 8.00 (m, 2H)	330
9	4-F	Cyclopropyl	0.75 (m, 2H), 1.00 (m, 2H), 1.75-2.00 (br m, 5H), 2.85 (br m, 1H), 3.30 (br m, 1H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 4.30 (br m, 1H), 4.55 (br m, 1H), 7.10 (t, 2H), 7.95 (m, 2H)	276
RE1	4-Me	Thien-2-yl	DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> : 1.50 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 4.30 (br d, 2H), 7.10 (t, 1H), 7.33 (d, 2H), 7.38 (d, 1H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H)	314
10	4-F	Thien-2-yl	1.55 (m, 2H), 1.85 (m, 2H), 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 4.30 (br d, 2H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.70 (m, 1H), 8.10 (m, 2H)	318

11	4-Cl	Thien-2-yl	1.50 (m, 2H), 1.85 (br d, 2H), 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 4.30 (br d, 2H), 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H), 7.60 (d, 2H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 8.00 (d, 2H)	334
RE2	4-Cl	Acetyl		266

**Example 12**1-(Thien-2-ylsulphonyl)-4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)piperidine

5 To a stirred solution of (4-chlorophenyl)(4-piperidyl)methanone hydrochloride (100mg, 0.41mmol) and triethylamine (104mg, 1.03 mmol) in DCM (4ml) was added 2-thiophenesulphonyl chloride (71mg, 0.39mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour then diluted to approximately 10ml with DCM and transferred to a sep funnel. The solution was then washed with 2M HCl (5ml), water (5ml) and brine (5ml), then dried,

10 filtered and evaporated to yield the product as a solid (83mg, 55%). NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.90 (d, 2H), 2.55 (m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.65 (d, 2H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, 2H), 7.60 (br s, 1H), 8.00 (d, 2H), 8.05 (m, 1H); m/z 370.

**Example 13**1-(Thien-2-ylmethyl)-4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)piperidine

15 To a stirred suspension of (4-chlorophenyl)(4-piperidyl)methanone hydrochloride (200mg, 0.82mmol) in THF (6ml) was added 2-thiophene carboxaldehyde (101mg, 0.90mmol). The reaction was stirred at 35°C for 5 hours before the addition of sodium triacetoxyborohydride (434mg, 2.05mmol). The reaction was left to stir at 35°C for 48 hours

20 before quenching by the addition of water (10ml). Volatiles removed under reduced pressure and the resulting solid was partitioned between water and DCM. The DCM layer was separated off and the aqueous was reextracted with DCM. The organic phases were combined and washed with brine, then dried, filtered and evaporated to yield crude product. This crude product was dissolved in DCM and treated with PS-trisamine (60mg) and PS-tosylchloride

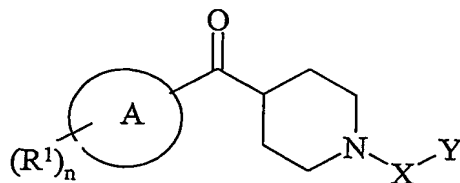
25 (290mg) for 12 hours. The polymer bound reagents were filtered off and the solvent was removed to yield the product (98mg, 38%). NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.85 (m, 4H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 3.00 (m, 2H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 6.95 (m, 2H), 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, 2H), 7.85 (d, 2H).

**Example 14****1-(Benzyl)-4-(4-bromobenzoyl)piperidine**

To a stirred solution of ethyl-N-benzyl isonipecotate (5.7g, 24.2mmol) in methanol (60ml) was added a 1M solution of NaOH (60ml, 60mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred  
5 for 4 hours. The solution was neutralised by the addition of 2M HCl solution (30ml, 60mmol) then the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was triturated with THF (3x100ml), the triturates were combined and evaporated to give 4.12g of N-benzylisonipecotic acid which was used without further purification. The N-benzylisonipecotic acid (3.94g, 18.0mmol) was suspended in THF (100ml) under Argon then cooled to  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ . A 2M solution of lithium  
10 diisopropylamide was then added dropwise with stirring (22.5ml, 45mmol). The reaction was then allowed to warm to room temperature followed by refluxing under argon for a further hour (oil bath temperature  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). This solution was then allowed to cool back to room temperature. In a separate flask 4-bromobenzoyl chloride (5.93g, 27mmol) was dissolved in THF (100ml) and cooled to  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The dianion solution was added dropwise to the acid  
15 chloride solution over 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$  for a further 30 minutes then allowed to warm to room temperature over night. The reaction was quenched by the addition of 2M HCl (36ml, 72mmol) in 100g of crushed ice. The product was extracted with 3x200ml DCM, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and then evaporated to give a brown oil. Flash column chromatography was performed, eluting with 0 to 5% MeOH in DCM. 1.7g of pure  
20 material was obtained as an orange solid.  $M/z$  358.

Claim

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

**Ring A** is selected from aryl or heteroaryl; wherein if said heteroaryl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from  $R^9$ ;

$R^1$  is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyloxy,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ amino,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoylamino,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylS(O) $_a$  wherein  $a$  is 0 to 2,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ sulphamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl $C_{0-4}$ alkylene-Y- and heterocyclyl $C_{0-4}$ alkylene-Y-; or two  $R^1$  on adjacent carbons may form an oxy $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy group; wherein  $R^1$  may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from  $R^3$ ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from  $R^4$ ;

$n$  is 0-3; wherein the values of  $R^1$  may be the same or different;

$X$  is -C(O)-, -S(O) $_2$ - or -CH $_2$ -;

$Y$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein  $Y$  may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more  $R^2$ ; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from  $R^5$ ;

$R^2$  is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyloxy,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ amino,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoylamino,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylS(O) $_a$  wherein  $a$  is 0 to 2,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl) $_2$ sulphamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl $C_{0-4}$ alkylene-Y- and heterocyclyl $C_{0-4}$ alkylene-Y-; wherein  $R^2$  may



be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from  $R^6$ ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from  $R^7$ ;

$R^3$  and  $R^6$  are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyloxy,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>amino,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoylamino,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylS(O)<sub>a</sub> wherein a is 0 to 2,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)sulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>sulphamoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^6$  may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more  $R^8$ ;

$R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^9$  are independently selected from  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkanoyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulphonyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl,  $N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)carbamoyl,  $N,N$ -( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl and phenylsulphonyl;

$R^8$  is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino,  $N$ -methyl- $N$ -ethylamino, acetylamino,  $N$ -methylcarbamoyl,  $N$ -ethylcarbamoyl,  $N,N$ -dimethylcarbamoyl,  $N,N$ -diethylcarbamoyl,  $N$ -methyl- $N$ -ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,  $N$ -methylsulphamoyl,  $N$ -ethylsulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -dimethylsulphamoyl,  $N,N$ -diethylsulphamoyl or  $N$ -methyl- $N$ -ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 $\beta$ HSD1.